

# KENTUCKY IRISH AMERICAN.

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## HUGH O'CONNOR.

Candidate for Congress From the Third Indiana District.

Born in the United States, But Was Educated in Ireland.

His Irish Ancestor Marked an Epoch in English History.

GRAND NEPHEW OF FERGUS O'CONNOR

In speaking of Hugh O'Connor, the Republican candidate for Congress in the Third district of Indiana, which includes New Albany, Jeffersonville and Corydon, Col. Durbin recently said: "Your candidate is no accident in this campaign, and unless I am very much mistaken in my estimate of this man, whom I have observed closely for some time past, he will prove considerable of an incident about November 6 and afterward."

When Mr. O'Connor, whose picture we present our readers with this article, was nominated in July there was a general feeling throughout his district that the majority against him was overwhelming. There is now an undecorated interest and such marked enthusiasm in every one of the nine counties comprising the Third district that the result of his canvass will be watched with hopeful expectancy.

Hugh O'Connor was born in New Orleans at the close of the civil war in 1865. His father, Daniel O'Connor, was part owner in a ship-yard located in Algiers, opposite New Orleans. When the Union army entered the city many of the dock owners destroyed their property, so that the Federals could not use it. Daniel O'Connor took the contract to build the fleet of flatboats which were used by Banks' army to cross Red river. Afterward he undertook the repairs of the Federal boats, and so great was the animosity against him that he was compelled to go to Mobile for men to do the work.

At the age of ten Hugh O'Connor was sent to Ireland and remained there at school until he reached his nineteenth year. On his return to America he entered the service of the Constitution Stone Company, near Marietta, Ohio, and gradually advanced to the position of Assistant Superintendent. In 1892 he was transferred to Connecticut and placed in charge of the Windsor Red Stone Company's quarries, owned by the same parties as the Ohio quarries. In 1894 he came to Corydon, Ind., as manager of the Corydon Stone Company, and the Louisville, New Albany & Corydon Railroad, a short line running from Corydon Junction to Corydon and thence to the King's Cave quarries.

Mr. O'Connor is a grand nephew of Fergus O'Connor, the celebrated chartist whose work marked an epoch in English history about 1840. This man who is described by an English historian as the "renowned, dreaded, detested Fergus O'Connor" was the editor of the Northern Star. His entire life was devoted to the cause of the poorer people, which he had espoused heart and soul. He had a kind of eloquence which told with immense power, and indeed men who had no manner of liking for him or sympathy with his doctrines have declared that he was the most effective mob orator they had ever heard. He was ready, if needs be, to fight his way single handed through a whole mass of Tory opponents at a contested election. Thomas Cooper, the poet, in his autobiography gives this amusing description of Fergus O'Connor, who was then his hero, leaping from a wagon at a Nottingham election into the midst of a crowd of Tory butchers and with only two stout chartist followers fighting his way through all opposition, "flooring the butchers like ninepins."

"Once," says Mr. Cooper, "the Tory lambs fought off all who surrounded him and got him down, and my heart quaked, for I thought they would kill him. But in a few moments his red head emerged again from the rough human billows and he was fighting his way as before." Cordially hated and despised as he was by English aristocrats, even persecuted and imprisoned at times, Fergus O'Connor was dearly loved by the artisans and laborers whose cause he had taken up, and at this day in the neighborhood of Nottingham and Sheffield numbers of men who were born in the early forties bear the given name of Fergus.

The chief demands of the chartists were: Manhood, suffrage, annual Parliaments, vote by ballot, abolition of the property qualifications, the payment of members and the division of equal electoral districts. To Americans of the present day who enjoy the privileges of our form of government these demands will appear to have been perfectly reasonable. They were, most of them, eventually granted by England, but to Fergus O'Connor, as to other great reformers, fell the brunt of the battle, without living to enjoy the fruits of his victory.

If there is anything in heredity, Hugh O'Connor must certainly have it in him to succeed, and one can not help wishing that he may. There is a certain pathos in the thought that it is due to the memory of poor "renowned, dreaded, detested" Fergus O'Connor that his descendant should have a part in that form of government the anticipation of which illumined his struggles in those closing days of English arrogance and oppression.

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HON. HUGH O'CONNOR.

Able Young Candidate for Congress in the Third Indiana District.

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## MICHAEL H. O'DONNELL.

Popular Irishman and Well-Known Citizen Passes Away.

Michael O'Donnell, one of Louisville's best known and most popular Irish citizens for the past eighteen years, passed away Wednesday morning at his home, 1925 Bank street, after a severe illness of tuberculosis, and the sad announcement was received with sincere grief by his many friends throughout the city.

He was a true Irishman and devout Catholic. Born in the County of Sligo thirty-nine years ago, the earlier years of his life were devoted to the Land League movement in his native country, where he was associated with many of the prominent leaders of that time. With others he was closely watched by the British authorities in Ireland, and to escape their annoyance and persecution he came to this country, years ago locating in this city, where he has always taken a deep interest in all affairs pertaining to the Irish race; also being identified with Division I of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

About seven years ago he engaged in the grocery business at Nineteenth and Bank streets, but his health failing he was compelled to retire. Later he was connected with the Western Life Insurance Company, but about three months ago he had to cease work altogether, and while the end came sad surprise it was not unexpected.

During the past two years he had been the staunch friend of this paper, which sustains a great personal loss by his death. He is survived by his wife and one son, who have the sincere sympathy of everybody in their irreparable loss. The funeral took place from St. Patrick's church yesterday morning with solemn requiem mass, the edifice being thronged to the doors. The funeral services were attended by Division I and members of the order generally. That he was a loving husband and kind father was known to all. May his soul rest in peace.

## START OVER AGAIN.

Such Is the Case With the Stricken City of Galveston.

George Lautz, Grand Secretary of the Kentucky Jurisdiction of the Young Men's Institute, this week received a letter from Odlin Council, of Galveston, which says that the loss of life and property in the stricken city is something beyond description. Up to last Saturday the number of lives known to be lost was reported at 3,500 souls, while the damage to property foots up in the neighborhood of \$25,000,000.

The letter ends thus: "Send all the money you can. So far as known Odlin Council has lost only one member, B. J. Keller. Hudson and his family came out all right. We do not know what shape Odlin Council will be in, as each of its members lose their all, and it will be a case of start all over again. The loss to the Catholic churches here alone will foot up something like \$350,000."

The Hudsons referred to will be remembered as the Galveston delegate to the recent convention held in this city by the Y. M. I. All the councils are responding to the appeals for assistance.

## LAMPS ALL RIGHT.

Since the abolishment of the position of Inspector of Gasoline Lamps the citizens on the outskirts have been complaining of the poor service. This grew to such an extent that the Board of Works investigated the matter and found that some action was a real necessity. They therefore recently made Edward J. Dalton Superintendent, and a visit through the complaining districts this week found all the lamps in proper condition and burning regularly.

## HALL BOARD MEETING.

There will be an important meeting of the Hall Board of the A. O. H. Tuesday evening, and President Murphy earnestly requests the attendance of every member.

## ELOQUENCE

Flowed at Open Social Meeting of Irish-American Society.

Its First Banquet at Music Hall Was the Best On Record.

Songs Well Rendered and Dancing Were Features of the Event.

## THE FEAST A BOUNTIFUL OFFERING.

If the members of the Irish-American Society and their friends as a body never again dangle their legs beneath long tables, groaning with the weight of the choicest of the farm and vineyard, if they never again breathe in an atmosphere so fragrant with eloquence, wit and logic by past masters at after-dinner oratory, preceded by songs most artistically rendered and dances that were fairylike, then Thursday night's social meeting and banquet will go down in history as the grandest and most successful affair ever given by the Irish-Americans of Louisville.

"Where are we at?" muttered the surprised guests as they were ushered, mid the strains of music, to the brilliant reception room and bounteous laden tables. "Why all this?" asked many others as they witnessed pleasing numbers follow rapidly through the excellent programme, entranced with the vocal solos and dances seldom witnessed in these parts.

But this was not all. Chairman John Flynn and Secretary Joe Byrne, assisted by Gus Kane, Thomas Tarpey, Charles Feeney, Thomas Keenan, John Kenney, Thomas Cleary, M. W. Murphy, Thomas Casfield, Eugene McShane, Pat Connaughton and others, were busy peevcing the guests of the evening, who numbered over 500. The Ways and Means Committee, anticipating a collection of epics, had prepared a feast which was duly appreciated.

When the guests were seated Thomas Tarpey arose and formally welcomed those present. He referred to the past history of the Irish-American Society and dwelt upon its future aims and objects, also inviting all eligible to become members and assist the good work that was being done. Then followed a programme of songs and dances that were enthusiastically applauded. Each number was most excellently rendered, and it would be unfair to attempt criticism. The singing of Misses May Kelly, Bee Mullarkey, Charlotte Walsh, Mamie Masters, Edna Buschmeyer and Miss Abbie Chester and Masters Tommy Keenan and Boyd Chester were all well received and warmly enjoyed.

Miss Elizabeth Tarpey's rendition of Irish melodies on the piano was pronounced one of the most pleasing performances of the evening, and elicited much praise.

The minstrel by little Misses Hattie May Gallagher, Julia and Henriette Boldt, Josephine Byrne and Masters J. C. Fisel, Daniel White, Charlie White and Philip Connell, who appeared in court costume, prepared the audience for what was to follow, and the cake walk participated in by Miss Josephine Byrne and Philip Connell and Edna Buschmeyer and Willie Buschmeyer put every one in the best of humor. Their fantastic evolutions were new and novel, and young Connell and his electric cane caused screams of laughter. By this hour all were ready to do justice to the supper, and for half an hour the guests were supplied with good things in abundance. The tables were artistically arranged in the form of the initials of the society, "I. A. S.", and were presided over by Toastmaster Thomas Keenan with a happy grace and tact that placed all at ease. The floral decorations were exquisite, and reflect credit upon the taste of the gentlemen of the committee. The banquet over and the hunger of all appeared the ladies and gentlemen were ready for the rush of eloquence, logic and wit that followed.

Toastmaster Keenan made a few introductory remarks suited to the happy occasion, and then introduced William Lawler, who responded to the toast, "Our Society," and expressed pleasure at seeing so many Irish-Americans present. He related the history of the society since its formation, laying great stress upon the fact that in times past it had been misrepresented and misunderstood, declaring that it was non-sectarian and non-partisan, its sole purpose being the keeping alive a reverence for the old land, the memory of its heroes and its history, and the protection of Irish-American interests. It was a society for rich and poor alike, and its many advanced fraternal and benevolent features were sufficient inducement for every one to make application now, while the initiation fee was so small. Mr. Lawler made a ringing speech, and at times his eloquence surprised even his friends. It was listened to with close attention throughout and received hearty applause.

The next speaker who was introduced was James J. Fitzgerald, the eloquent young Irish lawyer, who was given an ovation that was truly Irish in its warmth and heartiness. The guests had been prepared for a rare treat, and they were not disappointed. This address was

finished and scholarly, full of wit and logic, and all regretted its conclusion, many expressing a willingness to remain and listen to him for another hour.

Hon. Hugh O'Connor, of Corydon, Ind., was loudly cheered when presented by Toastmaster Keenan. His remarks, though brief, were well received, and he divided the honors with Mr. Fitzgerald. After telling of his association with Parnell and other Irish leaders he called attention to the evil effects of disunion and urged his hearers to join the society and lead to the union so much desired by the best men of the race. He also eulogized Michael Davitt, and in his brilliant peroration declared that the Irish race, like their religion, was universal.

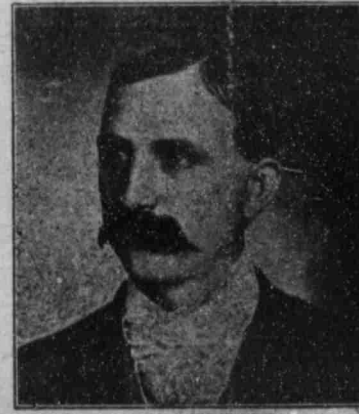
Taken as a whole, it was an entertainment such as was never given in the city before by representative people to those of their own nationality, and was enjoyed in the most hearty manner by every one who was fortunate enough to be present.

And thus closed the most notable event in Irish-American affairs of recent years. Young and old, all spent a most enjoyable evening, one that will live in their memory. The members of the Irish-American Society are receiving many assurances of assistance in their work as a result, and we hope the membership will now rapidly increase.

## JAMES NORTON,

Popular Democratic Candidate in Eighth and Ninth Wards.

Among the nominees for School Trustee at the coming election none are better qualified than James Norton, who is the Democratic candidate in the Forty-



ninth district, composed of the Eighth and Ninth wards. He was born and has always resided in the Ninth ward, and this and his wide acquaintance adds strength to his candidacy.

Mr. Norton received his primary education in the public schools, subsequently completing his studies at St. Francis Xavier's College, where he took high rank. For the past eighteen years he has been a member of the firm of William Norton & Son, wholesale and retail grocery and feed dealers at Ninth and Broadway. Now only forty years old, and equipped with both educational and business training, his friends are confident that he will make an honorable and efficient School Trustee.

Though always a Democrat, he has never before been an aspirant for office, rather preferring to assist his friends to public honor. Mr. Norton is happily married, and his interest in the schools is enhanced by the fact that his children are being educated therein. The race in the Eighth and Ninth wards between him and Dr. Galvin will be a lively and interesting one.

## MACKIN'S EUCHRES

Will Begin Next Thursday Evening at the Club House.

Mackin Council will inaugurate its season of euchres next Thursday evening at their handsome new club house, 530 Twenty-sixth street. During the past three winter seasons these pleasant house parties have been the most popular events in the West End, and for the purpose of accommodating all they will take place every Thursday evening, when handsome prizes will be awarded the winners.

The committee having them in charge is as follows: Charles Raidy, Chairman; Dan Weber, Will Shaughnessy, Edward Wenzel and George Semonis. These young men have had much experience, and will doubtless provide for the satisfactory entertainment of all who attend. While an admission fee of only ten cents will be charged, none but those receiving invitations will be admitted.

The Young Ladies' Auxiliary will also give a number of their delightful receptions during the coming season.

## PRICE MAY RAISE.

There is a great scarcity of Pittsburgh coal in the Louisville market, dealers now selling only in single load lots. This may lead to a raise in prices of all kinds. Dougherty & Co., West Main street, and the Central Coal and Iron Company are prepared to fill all orders, and we make this statement to warn our readers in time. Their rates will be found in our advertising columns.

## CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Labor Union takes place tomorrow afternoon, when the preliminary steps may be taken toward arranging for the reception of the American Federation in December.

## THE BIG DAY.

Green Will Prevail at the Elks' Carnival and Fair Next Tuesday.

Thousands of Irish Ready to Take Part in the Celebration.

Hon. Matt O'Doherty Will Introduce Orator James J. Fitzgerald.

## A SPLENDID PROGRAMME ARRANGED

All eyes are now turned to the celebration of Irish-American day at the Elks' carnival next Tuesday, when the largest gathering of the year is expected. Messrs. John Barrett, John Flynn, John Mulloy and Joe Byrne, representing the Irish-Americans of the city, and Grand Exalted Ruler Brown and Secretary Nuetzel, of the Elks, have succeeded in perfecting all the arrangements for a most enjoyable occasion, and the programme will be the most artistic and interesting of this year's carnival.

Last Friday night there was an enthusiastic meeting at the headquarters in the Board of Trade. Chairman Barrett stated that it was the desire of all Irish-Americans to take part and make the undertaking a success. Others who spoke for the day were Newton Rogers, Thomas Walsh, John J. Flynn, John Mulloy, Gus Kane and Thomas Claire, who declared that no people on earth enjoyed a day's fun more than the Irish.

In response to the foregoing Exalted Ruler Brown declared that to the Irish-Americans Louisville owed its greatest intellectual and commercial success, and pledged that the day would be one made memorable to the entire population, all Irishmen and societies meeting equally for the purpose of painting everything—not red, but green.

Secretary Marmaduke Bowden made some very pleasing remarks, quoting the "Irish Emigrant's Lament," and saying he honored those who did not forget the old land, and urged those present to do all in their power to make a little Ireland in Louisville for one day, when the carnival grounds would be decorated in green in honor of the old sod.

Col. Ed Bacon, Vice President of the carnival, made a stirring appeal to those present to induce all Irish-Americans to turn out upon the day set apart for them, with the assurance that none will be given a more hearty welcome.

During the past week the joint committees have arranged the order of exercises. Hon. Matt O'Doherty will preside and make the opening address, introducing James J. Fitzgerald, the orator for the occasion, and perhaps Judge Shine, of Covington, State President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, who has been invited to be present. The musical portion will include selections by Mrs. Margaret Nevin Dougherty, who has been invited and is expected with others to take part. Mrs. Dougherty is known far and wide as one of the best soloists in Kentucky, and doubtless many will go for the express purpose of hearing her. Other features may yet be added, and those who are present will not be disappointed in the programme.

An invitation has been extended through the press to a large number of representative Irishmen to occupy seats on the platform, among them being Pat Bannon, Barney Cassidy, John McAteer, Barney Campbell, Col. John Whalen, Pat Kelley, Martin Cusick, Col. Mike Muldoon, James P. Whalen, Dan Murphy, Edward J. O'Brien, Edward Connan, James Coleman, Edward Tierney, D. X. Murphy, Nell Curtin, James Gaffney, Newton Rogers, Thomas Walsh, James O'Connor, Thomas Keenan, Frank McGrath, Frank Dugan, M. W. Murphy, William Lynch, Farrell Curran, James Norton, Edward Malone and others whose names were not obtainable when going to press.

The attendance at the carnival during the past week has exceeded the expectation of the most sanguine, and all who went will also go again. The parade on Monday was the most beautiful pageant ever witnessed in this city. The displays were all meritorious, but that of the fire department was exceedingly handsome. There were many thousands of strangers in the city, and our merchants have done a largely increased business in consequence. The Elks deserve praise for their enterprise, and all should show their appreciation of that fact by making Tuesday's attendance the record breaker.

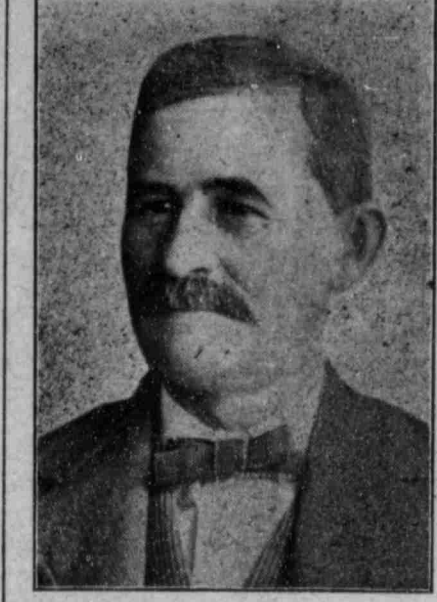
## THOMAS TARPEY.

Is Prominent and Popular in Irish-American Circles.

Few men have grown in popularity among the Irish-Americans more rapidly during the past dozen years than Thomas Tarpey, who first saw the light of day fifty years ago at Madison, Ind. Born of honest and industrious Irish parents, he was given a common school education. At the age of twenty he engaged in the queensware business, which he has followed ever since.

During the year 1884 he accepted a

position with the firm of Charles Rosenheim & Co., the Main-street crockery and queensware merchants, whom he has



THOMAS TARPEY.

Popular Citizen and Treasurer of the Irish-American Society.

materially aided in establishing their large trade. Mr. Tarpey is at present Treasurer of the Irish-American Society of this city, which owes much of its present success to his wise counsel and earnest labors in its behalf. Besides this he takes an active interest in church and charitable work, as the members of the Sacred Heart congregation will attest. He is also one of the Executive Committee having in charge the coming bazar for the Sisters of Mercy on Second street.

Tom Tarpey is known as a strong Democrat in politics, and while never an office-seeker, none have known him to fail to roll up his sleeves to work for his friends. His name has been frequently mentioned for office in the West End, and could his friends induce him to run he might have any office within their gift.

## VISITED ARMAGH.

Father Rock Delighted and Impressed an Immense Congregation.

From a recent issue of the Dublin Independent we take the following, which will prove interesting news to our many readers and the multitude of friends of Rev. Father Rock, of the Cathedral:

"Rev. Father Rock, of Kentucky, has been in Armagh during the past week on a visit to his native city, after an absence in America of many years. The distinguished Irish-American priest, who is a man of keen intellectual power, has made for himself a highly honored name as a theologian in the country of his adoption. Father Rock delighted and impressed an immense congregation at the 11 o'clock mass in St. Malachy's chapel on Sunday by an eloquent, touching and brilliant sermon."

## SAILS NEXT WEEK.

Cornelius Nolan Returns to Ireland After Long Absence.

Cornelius Nolan, who for the past thirteen years has guarded the gates of the Illinois Central at Fourteenth and Main streets, during that time saving many lives and never having an accident, will next week take a well-earned rest. The company has granted him an unlimited leave of absence, and he will take advantage of it to return to Ireland and visit the scenes of his childhood in the city of Cork, which he left in 1867.

Mr. Nolan has many relatives in that city whom he will visit, and besides may make a tour of the country. The trip will not be one of pleasure alone, but will include some important business transactions, and his many friends wish him a safe and successful journey. He resides with his family at Twelfth and Zane streets.

## LENDING MONEY ABROAD.

It can not but be gratifying to American pride that Europe is now sitting in the ante-rooms of our financial institutions begging the favor of loans. But at the same time let us not forget what that means.

It means that costly wars and costly military establishments are eating out the substance of our fellow-beings of Europe, are forcing them to come with empty pockets to beg of us, who, thanks to the prosperity of a purely industrial civilization, have enough and to spare.

It means that the burden of debt of civilization is increasing—a menace to the prosperity of every human being in this world where what affects any part can not but affect the whole.

It does not necessarily mean that we as a nation are increasing in prosperity. Great Britain has long been the creditor nation of the world. Yet the percentage of pauperism in Great Britain is one person in every forty—higher far than in Germany or France.

It means that our workers with hand and brain are adding to the national wealth, but it sheds no light whatever upon the important point—the distribution of wealth.—[New York World.]

The trial of Jim Howard, the mountain feudist, for the murder of the late Gov. Goebel, is now drawing to a close, and the case will probably go to the jury on Saturday or Monday.

## FRANKFORT.

Approaching Marriage of Gertrude Lang and Thomas Newman.

Gov. Beckham Will Open the Street Fair and Carnival Tuesday.

Legislature Making Slow Progress on the New Election Bill.

## SOCIETY NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP.

[Special Correspondence of the Kentucky Irish American.]

FRANKFORT, Ky., Sept. 20.—Next Tuesday morning Frankfort's second free street fair and carnival will be opened by Gov. Beckham, and for four days the residents of the historic Capital City will give themselves up to entertaining in royal style the thousands of visitors from surrounding Kentucky towns. "Everything will be as free as the air you breathe, wafted over Frankfort's sunlit hills, as pure as the waters of her classic river, and as welcome as the strains of 'My Old Kentucky Home.'"

The civic and military parade will probably be one of the greatest affairs ever witnessed here, the centennial of 1886 not excepted. Several handsome premiums have been offered for the best decorated vehicle, and there will be many competitors. The many high-class vaudeville attractions will be well worth going miles to see, while the fireworks display at night will be superb. Taken all in all, this carnival promises to be a grand success.

Invitations are out announcing the marriage of Miss Gertrude Lang and Thomas B. Newman, of this city. The wedding will take place at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Wednesday morning, October 10, at 6 o'clock, with nuptial mass, Rev. Father Major officiating. The attendants will be Miss Tony Lang, sister of the bride, and William Newman, brother of the groom. The groom is one of the most popular and well-known young men in the Capital City, having held a responsible position with the W. A. Gaines and Allen-Bradley companies for several years. Less than two years ago, when the Kentucky Distilleries and Warehouse Company was organized, he accepted a position with the new company, which he still holds. The bride-elect is one of Frankfort's fairest and most lovable daughters, having scores of friends who will wish her all future happiness possible. The happy young couple will go to housekeeping at once in a pretty little cottage on the South Side. Their many friends wish them long life, happiness and prosperity.

The members of the Elite Social Club tendered a pleasing supper to J. S. Humphries on the eve of his departure from Frankfort to engage in business for himself or accept a position as commercial traveler. Among those present were Messrs. William Newman, Emmet Norman, William Kennedy, D. P. Davis, Louis Schroff, John Gayle, J. H. Lutkenmeier, J. T. Dolan, R. A. Brawnes, J. H. Humphries and D. J. McNamara. After the supper speeches were made by several, expressing regret at losing so valuable a member, to which Mr. Humphries happily responded. By his departure Frankfort loses one of her best young business men.

On Sunday last the infant son of J. P. Hanley, of this city, died in Georgetown, where he had been placed under the care of a specialist. The funeral took place Tuesday morning, Rev. Father Major officiating. Mr. Hanley's many friends extend sympathy in his bereavement.

The "street fair hop" to be given by the members of the Elite Social Club next Thursday evening promises to be one of the swellest affairs given in Frankfort for some time. The Capital Theater orchestra has been engaged for the occasion, and over one hundred invitations have been sent to friends of the members in Central Kentucky towns, who will probably be in Frankfort that day attending the street fair carnival.

Dame Rumor says that ere the "ides of November" roll round a half dozen prominent young business men on Main and St. Clair streets will join the Benedict and endeavor to make an equal number of young maidens happy for the rest of their lives, four of whom reside in Frankfort and two in near-by towns.

A few days ago the famous "Spanish cannon," of which so much has been said and written, arrived in the city, and has been mounted in the State House yard near the fountain. The unveiling will take place next Tuesday, the opening day of the fall carnival. Appropriate speeches will be made by Gov. Beckham, the Mayor and other prominent people.

The Legislature is slowly dragging along without making much headway, as they adjourn every few days to take in some county or street fair. In the meantime the howlers for a fair election law charge that there will be no change made in the present one. Conservative men in both parties, however, believe that a fair and just election law will be enacted within a few days to take the place of the present law, the fairness of which is questioned by many who have never even read its provisions.